

# MEMORANDUM

## State of Alaska

Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Habitat

TO: Jackie Timothy  
Southeast Regional Supervisor

DATE: 19 September 2012

FILE NO: 2924

THRU: Kate Kanouse,  
Habitat Biologist

SUBJECT: CBJ sewer main,  
Lawson Creek, Juneau

FROM: Tally Teal  
Habitat Biologist

PHONE NO: (907) 465 6980

On August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Habitat Biologist Johnny Zutz and I visited Lawson Creek (AWC Stream Number 111-40-10890). The City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) intends to install a utility line across the mouth of Lawson Creek (Figure 1), and the purpose of our visit was to determine possible impacts to fishery resources from the project.

CBJ plans to replace the existing lift station located near the mouth of Lawson Creek, and the sewer force main that is buried across the mouth of Lawson Creek below the 20.8' tide line (Figure 2). The existing steel pump station and 8" iron pipe are corroded and need to be replaced. Should the sewer force main develop a leak or break, raw sewage would be discharged into Gastineau Channel.

CBJ will replace the current lift station with a concrete structure. This activity will not affect salmon spawning habitat, as work will not occur in the creek. They will install a new 10" HDPE sewer pipe below the existing pipe, which will remain in place. Installing the new sewer force main requires digging a 4' by 8' trench across the mouth of Lawson Creek, which could disturb salmon present in the stream.

Lawson Creek is currently cataloged for pink salmon and Dolly Varden char. During our visit, most of the fish we observed near the mouth of the creek were chum salmon; only a few pink salmon were present. We observed several female chum salmon guarding redds, but only one was actively digging. We will submit a nomination to include chum salmon for this stream.

We observed few adult salmon where the new sewer force main will be installed, but numbers of adult fish increased dramatically upstream. The trench to replace the sewer force main will be near enough to the mouth of the creek to avoid impacting salmon spawning habitat upstream.

Habitat issued Fish Habitat Permit FH12-I-0195 that authorized CBJ to install the new sewer pipe when no adult salmon are present.

## Email cc:

Al Ott, ADF&G Habitat, Fairbanks  
Biologists, ADF&G Habitat, Juneau  
Brian Glynn, ADF&G SF, Juneau  
David Harris, ADF&G CF, Juneau  
Teri Camery, CBJ, Juneau  
Joe Castillo, CBJ, Juneau  
Steve Brockmann, USFWS, Juneau  
Victor Ross, USACE, Juneau  
James Dorn, Carson Dorn Inc., Juneau



Figure 1. Aerial view of the proposed worksite



Figure 2. View of the proposed work area from the existing pump station at the mouth of Lawson Creek